**Inclusion of horticulture under NAIS**

1966. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for inclusion of horticulture perennial crops in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Proposals for inclusion of perennial horticultural crops have been received from time to time from States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry.

(b) Perennial horticultural crops are not yet covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) because of their multi-picking nature and non-availability of adequate past yield data. However, the Joint Group constituted by this Department to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes, have *inter alia* recommended for providing insurance coverage to perennial horticultural and vegetable crops as a separate scheme. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AlC) which is the implementing agency of NAIS has been asked to study the feasibility/ modalities for coverage of such crops.

**Grameen Bhandaran Yojana**

1967. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new scheme "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" to create storage capacity in rural areas;

(b) the number of godowns set up in the rural areas under the scheme, State-wise;